



## **Memorandum of Understanding**

### **I. Introduction**

The Connecticut Alliance for Drug Endangered Children, established in October of 2009, is a coalition of professionals assisting local communities to effectively and efficiently identify and protect children endangered by caregivers who produce, distribute or use illegal drugs such as heroin, cocaine, marijuana and methamphetamine. The Alliance exists to serve the professional community that serves Connecticut's drug endangered children.

A drug endangered child (DEC) is identified by the alliance as a child from birth to eighteen years of age who lives in, is exposed to, or found in places where controlled substances are sold, manufactured, processed or used. Drug endangered children are at increased risk of injury or death, physical and sexual abuse, and nutritional, educational, supervisory and emotional neglect. These children are also at risk of perpetuating the cycle of drug and child abuse.

### **II. Purpose**

The ultimate goal of the Alliance is to help professionals break the cycle of drug and child abuse in their communities.

The key objectives of the Alliance are to:

1. Promote collaboration among professions serving drug endangered children (DEC).
2. Serve as a statewide resource on DEC issues to equip DEC professionals, local communities, policy makers and other advocacy groups with accurate information.
3. Provide guidance and resources to assist statewide and local DEC efforts.
4. Provide evidence-based and outcome-focused approaches to DEC issues.
5. Promote research and data collection for the benefit of drug endangered children and those professionals who assist them.
6. Provide networking opportunities.

### **III. Commitment**

Parties to this agreement are committed to a cooperative and collaborative approach to efforts needed to identify and protect Connecticut's drug endangered children.

All parties promise and agree as follows:

- To coordinate and cooperate for the benefit of drug endangered children in Connecticut.
- To work together to achieve maximum benefits from available resources.
- To reduce duplication of effort.
- To work toward sustainability and to institutionalize the identification and use of effective and efficient approaches that benefit drug endangered children and their families.
- To agree to the sharing of information and resources needed to facilitate the goals of the Alliance and abide by the confidentiality restrictions as contained in federal and state law.
- To be an Alliance Board Member and attend regularly scheduled meetings and in doing so, provide oversight and direction for the Alliance.

#### IV. Effective Date, Modification, and Reservation of Rights

Nothing in this MOU will be construed as limiting or affecting in any way the authority or legal responsibility of a party, or as binding a party to perform beyond its respective authority. Each party retains the sole discretion to determine its ability to comply with the terms of this MOU according to circumstances and available resources at any given time. This MOU is not a contractual agreement that imposes any liability on a party for non-compliance. Further, this MOU does not require a party to assume or expend any sum in excess of its available appropriations.

This MOU shall become effective when signed by the parties hereto. This MOU may be formally terminated by any party following thirty days' notice in writing to the other parties.

The parties entering into this agreement are:

James M. Thomas, Commissioner  
Connecticut Department of Public Safety

1/11/11  
Date

J. H. H., Commissioner  
Connecticut Department of Children and Families

12/23/10  
Date

[Signature]  
Chief State's Attorney

1/6/11  
Date

Peter A. P., Commissioner  
CT Dept of Mental Health and Addiction Services

1/6/11  
Date